Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—Why should the European Planters' Associations send separate propositions to Government? Their nominees come like delegates but not as representatives.

Second Member of Council.—They are the representatives but not delegates. The object of this Assembly is that the Association should be represented and the principle is that they have got a right to speak.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—This is the principle in established countries.

Mr. Ananthiah Chetty.—I suggest that all the subjects brought forward on behalf of these Associations should have the previous approval of the bodies concerned.

Mr. Vema Reddi.—When one becomes the member of the Assembly he should have every privilege to represent everything. There should not be any restriction.

Mr. Paramasivaiya.—This time I had sent up three subjects in connection with the Mysore Lingayets, but none of them has appeared in the book of subjects.

Dewan.—Government will pass orders after due consideration.

SUBJECT No. 3

Improvement of Land Revenue pending Resettlement

Note placed by Government before the Assembly.—The revision settlement of 23 taluks is now overdue. Of these, in the case of Manjarabad, the introduction of resettlement fell due so far back as 1912-13. That of Hole-Narsipur fell due in 1913-14. In the case of other taluks, resettlement has been overdue by over five years.

The total revenue of the 23 taluks is about Rs. 25 lakhs. In the light of past experience, the resettlement of these taluks may be expected to yield substantial additional revenue every year. Sacrifice of revenue to the extent of about half a crore of rupees will have occurred by the time the resettlement has been effected, even according to the accelerated programme about to be sanctioned.

Section 112 of the Land Revenue Code lays down that "it shall be lawful to Government to declare the assessment fixed at the settlement as fixed for a term of years not exceeding 30"; accordingly, the survey guarantee provides the following:—

"The assessment now imposed by the Revenue Survey on all dry crop lands and on lands watered solely from wells will not be raised for 30 years."

The period of guarantee has expired long ago; but the occupants of lands in these taluks are continuing to pay the old rates of assessment, though they have largely benefited by the great increase in prices and by the improvements in communications. It is a point for consideration whether, in view of the present financial situation the assessment in these taluks may not immediately be increased by about 20 per cent of the present rates, pending formal resettlement, in order to secure to the State its legitimate increase of revenue. The rate of increase proposed will be well below the probable increase that will accrue eventually on the introduction of resettlement. But if there should be any case in which the revised assessment is lower than the rate now fixed, the excess may be refunded.

Discussion on the subject:—Mr. H. Krishna Sastri.—The proposal to increase the rate of land revenue assessment by about 20 per cent in the 23 taluks of the State in which resettlement has been overdue for a long time, is not acceptable to most people as it has no statutory

basis. It is no doubt true that Section 112 of the Land Revenue Code lays down that "it shall be lawful to Government to declare the assessment fixed at the settlement as fixed for a term of years not exceeding thirty." But there is no specific provision in the Code to the effect that, after the said period of 30 years, Government may, if they choose, increase the said assessment. In the absence of such a provision, it is not right to increase the assessment in the manner proposed.

Raiyats generally expect to get certain concessions at the time of resettlement. They cannot therefore forego the concessions and agree to the increase of assessment.

We have all along been representing to Government to have the existing lands sub-divided, but we are merely referred to the Revenue Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners.

Revenue Commissioner.—I agree that the work of sub-dividing the survey numbers is the duty of the Revenue Department as pointed out to you by the Survey Superintendent. But it is not possible to take up all taluks at the same time. About 6 or 7 taluks will have to be completed every year. We are doing our best to push through the work.

Mr. Krishna Sastri.—One of the reasons urged in the Note for increasing the assessment is that the occupants of lands in the taluks referred to have largely benefited by the great increase in prices and by the improvement in communications. It is no doubt true that the raiyats have benefited to some extent; but at the same time, they will have to pay dearly for their everyday needs in common with the other people; and on the whole, it must be admitted that the present day raiyat is not in a more prosperous condition than his compeer in the olden days when there was neither increase in prices nor improvement in communications. I would therefore strongly deprecate the proposal to increase the assessment in the manner proposed.

Even if, in spite of the arguments put forward, Government are bent upon increasing the assessment, I would urge the desirability of not increasing it to the extent proposed, namely 20 per cent, all at once. It is stated in the Note that the rate of increase proposed is well below the probable increase that will accrue eventually on the introduction of re-settlement and that, if there should be any case in which the revised assessment is lower than the rate now fixed, the excess would be refunded. But when once the increase is sanctioned, the tendency would be to bring the revised assessment at the re-settlement to the same level, so that there might be no scope for refund at all. It would therefore be better to increase the assessment gradually, if at all. If it is decided to increase the assessment, it might be increased to 10 per cent in the first instance instead of 20 per cent as proposed.

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya.—So far as Manjarabad Taluk is concerned, it has not derived any appreciable benefit either in regard to increase in prices or in regard to improvement in communications. There is no railway connection to the taluk and we were not in any way benefited by the high prices of food grains as we were forced to sell all our produce to the planters at a great loss. The lands in our parts are bad; the raiyats are poor; the lantana pest and wild animals affect cultivation to a

considerable extent. So far as the Manjarabad Taluk is concerned, no increase in assessment should be sanctioned.

Dewan.—The question relates to 23 taluks and not to one.

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya.—Conditions are more or less the same in other taluks also. Permanent re-settlement might be introduced instead of a temporary increase in assessment.

Mr. Thimmappaiya.—Re-settlement has been overdue in the Manjarabad Taluk for the past 10 years. The raiyats will have no objection if re-settlement is effected, and assessment increased, if necessary. But they cannot agree to the assessment being increased pending re-settlement. There is nothing in Section 112 of the Land Revenue Code authorising the Government to raise the assessment in the way now proposed either permanently or temporarily.

With regard to the conveniences that this taluk is said to be enjoying, I need hardly say that there are none at all. There are no lands near the provincial roads, and there are hardly any roads for even bullock carts to pass from one village to another. From year to year the yield in the lands is steadily decreasing. From a perusal of the accounts of the Taluk office, it will be seen that a large amount of revenue is outstanding, and the reason is that the condition of the raiyat is not what it was.

Superintendent of Survey.—Unless we study the details of each taluk, we shall not increase the assessment indiscriminately. As suggested the accounts will be gone through before action is taken.

Mr. Thimmappaiya.—We are the representatives of the taluk and we cannot agree to this proposal as it is not in the interests of the public. A Taluk Conference may be arranged and the opinion of the general body of raiyats taken before any increase of assessment is ordered.

Mr. Nanje Gowda.—The feeling of the raiyats is that they are not receiving the help that they were getting from Government in former days. The tanks which were so generously built in those days are either breached and never repaired, or filled with silt and thus rendered useless. I do not know of any tank which has been constructed by Government in recent years. Under these circumstances, I submit that no increase of assessment should be sanctioned without resettlement.

Dewan.—Government do not wish to force the scheme against the wishes of the people. As the general feeling is against the proposed increase of assessment, Government will have steps taken to bring resettlement into effect in the 23 taluks referred to instead of increasing the assessment in the way proposed.

SUBJECT NO. 4.

Re-imposition of fees in Middle Schools and Enhancement of fees in High Schools.

Note placed by Government before the Assembly.—At the time of abolition of fees in Middle Schools it was expected that the loss incurred by Government under fee income would be Rs. 1,08,758. Subsequently the aided agencies had also to be compensated for loss of fee income by a corresponding increase of grant and this involved an additional expenditure of about Rs. 50,000. The total effect of the abolition of fees has thus been a loss of about Rs. 1,50,000 per annum to the Government.

The improvement of Middle School education is one of the most important and urgent measures to be